

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. Of these, claims 1-4 have been allowed. Claims 5-14 have been rejected. In response, Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-4. Regarding the rejections of the remaining claims, the Applicants respectfully disagree, however, to expedite prosecution Applicants have amended claims 5, 8, and 11, to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 1, thus obviating the rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

As summarized above, the Examiner allowed claims 1-4. Although the Applicants believe that independent claims 5, 8, and 11 are allowable without incorporating the limitations claim 1, in order to expedite prosecution, claims 5, 8, and 11 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the subject office action, claims 8-10 were rejected as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6, 415, 164 B1 to Blanchard et al. ("Blanchard") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 5 – 7 and 11 - 14 were rejected as being unpatentable over Blanchard in view of US Patent No. 7,137,073 B2 to Kim et al. ("Kim") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 8, and 11 are patentable over Blanchard and Kim without having to rely on subject matter in allowable claim 1. However, as noted above, in order to advance prosecution, claims 5, 8, and 11 have been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 1, and is thus are now patentable over the references. Dependent claims 6-7, 9-10, and 12 depend from respective claims 5, 8, and 11, incorporating their recitations. Thus, for at least the same reasons that claims 5, 8, and 11 are patentable over Blanchard and Kim, claims 6-7, 9-10, and 12 are now also patentable. Furthermore, claims 13-14 depend from claim 1, incorporating its recitations. Thus, for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable, claims 13-14 are also patentable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is solicited. As a result of the amendments made herein, Applicant submits that that all pending claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1561. If any fees are due in connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, P

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